

2022



American Friends of
Combatants for Peace

ANNUAL REPORT



www.afcfp.org

**THERE IS
ANOTHER WAY**



A WORD FROM OUR LEADERSHIP

Dear friends,

We are honored to present American Friends of Combatants for Peace's and Combatants for Peace's annual report. In 2022, we saw an escalating, unrelenting, and painful new norm of violence develop in the Occupied West Bank. The Israeli army acted with near impunity, and settlers became more empowered, claiming land, rights, and possessions that did not belong to them. Most shocking was the number of children that were harmed. Over 40 Palestinian children were killed, and nearly 780 were detained. From nighttime raids to hidden snipers, the occupation claimed innocent people's lives, and we felt a renewed sense of urgency and obligation to act.

In 2022, we also saw an escalating, unrelenting commitment to peace, justice, and solidarity within our movement. While we faced many challenges, including feelings of hopelessness from Israeli allies as well as anger and fear from Palestinian activists, **our cooperation proved that we are uniquely, unequivocally stronger TOGETHER.** In the face of chaos, we successfully ran joint projects, campaigned side-by-side, and shared our work of transformation with more audiences than ever from around the world.

A collective pride came with the launch of our 'Freedom School' in Palestine, which mirrored the existing Israeli program. We felt a sense of ambition and belonging as we watched young people devote their time to learn about the conflict, consider the narrative of 'the other', discover creative ways to resist the occupation, and dream of a new reality together. We were in awe as we witnessed the first Palestinian graduating class holding their certificates of achievement and felt **a wave of hope for our future.**

For us, 2022 was humbling and, at times, extremely difficult to navigate. Yet even through intense conflict, we learned new strategies and found ways to be the solution in a sea of problems. We will continue to be the model for co-resistance, peaceful protest, non-violent action, and collective imagination. We are grateful for your support, trust, and belief. Together, we forge forward for a just peace.

In solidarity & hope,



Rana Salman
Palestinian Executive Director
Combatants for Peace



Yonatan Gher
Israeli Executive Director
Combatants for Peace



Tiffany Goodwin-Van Camp
Executive Director
American Friends of Combatants for Peace



EDUCATION & EMPOWERMENT

In 2022, our educational programming grew and **reached a record number of young people across Israel and Palestine.**

Our goal is to increase the number of young people participating in peace, justice, and human rights activities. We help these emerging leaders develop a holistic and realistic view of the occupation and systems of oppression in both societies and build a network of relationships within civil society.

Israeli Freedom School

INCITING PEACE - LEARNING TO BUILD TRUST BETWEEN ISRAELI AND PALESTINIAN YOUTH

Israeli Freedom School is an intensive and immersive learning and action program for Israeli young adults from all walks of Jewish society who have finished high school and are waiting to start pre-army academies, national service, or army service. We had 19 graduates in 2022.

We are building a political, grassroots alternative that empowers young Israelis to develop the skills of social change and political awareness - **to imagine and construct a new reality rooted in dignity and equality for all.**



Meet David

2022 Freedom School Graduate

For weeks, David lived and learned in Jerusalem with other young Israelis. During Freedom School, he grappled with questions of identity, discussed power dynamics and systemic discrimination, and explored non-violent human rights struggles worldwide. On weekends, he traveled with his peers to witness life under occupation for Palestinians in places such as the South Hebron Hills.

David is now a peace activist in Israel - he actively works to stop settlement expansion and advocates for equal rights for all.

At CfP, transformation stories like David's are not uncommon. Together, we not only break down stereotypes and humanize one another - we build binational community and take action to co-resist oppression and co-create a future of freedom.

Palestinian Freedom School



We launched the Palestinian Freedom School with 24 young people between the ages of 17 - 26 from cities and villages, including Ramallah, Nablus, Safit, Jericho, and Hebron. During our unique 6-month program, the youth explored how the occupation has shaped their collective and individual identities, received training on methods of nonviolent activism, and participated in joint resistance.

Through tours, workshops, and classes, both Israeli and Palestinian participants developed the tools to reject violence and resist injustice and oppression. **Upon graduating, the alumni create joint projects to transform conflict, and they push back against the occupation TOGETHER.**



I could see that nonviolent co-resistance is not a slogan, but a real act.

I saw this especially when we visited Al-Tawani village where, for the first time, I saw Israeli activists working hard with the locals. It actually changed my perspective. It was an invitation for Palestinian youth to become real activists and take part in the nonviolent resistance.

-ABED S.

2022 Freedom School Graduate



EDUCATION & EMPOWERMENT

65 EDUCATORS EMPOWERED

reaching the next generation



3 COHORTS



Learned to facilitate discussions with students about the occupation.

Land Beyond the Mountains

In order to end the occupation, we need educators to be informed about the reality of oppression in all its forms. To create societal change from within the classroom, CfP's Land Beyond the Mountain seminars equip teachers with the tools to effectively challenge traditional narratives and introduce students to diverse perspectives that can shape their lives.

Activist Trainings

To create grassroots change, activists need to be aware of their rights and responsibilities while taking part in nonviolent demonstrations.

Based on the civil rights movements of the past, we trained individuals in the art of storytelling, nonviolent communication and civil resistance, how to use their bodies during protests to protect one another, and other creative tools that enable people to protest safely and effectively.

Many of our trainings focused on women's rights and empowerment.



Big Picture Seminars

Alumni of our educational programs created this initiative to reach pre-army youth aged 18 - 20 and introduce them to Israeli and Palestinian mentors. In 2022, we ran 2 cohorts with 24 youth.

Stories of Transformation

Hearing “the other” tell their own narrative is an essential step in building empathy. We are leaders in sharing the dual Palestinian/Israeli narrative of conflict, occupation, oppression, and joint resistance.

600

PEOPLE ATTENDED
A TRANSFORMATION
LECTURE IN 2022



I served in the Israeli military during the First Intifada. One night, my men were tasked with finding a wanted terrorist. We entered the house and dragged him out. He was a 10-year-old child! My children were human,

yet we had dehumanized Palestinian children. I could no longer be a part of such a thing. I became a refusenik and co-founded CfP. Former combatants, now activists, take responsibility to end the violence and advance justice. As we join forces with Palestinians to overcome the occupation, we prove there is another way.

Chen Alon





JOINT MEMORIALS

THE 17TH ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN

Joint Memorial Ceremony

Our unique memorial ceremony takes place on the 'Israeli National Day of Remembrance' or Yom Hazikaron and **reaches an audience of approximately one million people** worldwide.

The memorial is an opportunity to **reject violence** and **unite** through **joint values, reconciliation** and **hope**.



1MM PEOPLE REACHED WORLDWIDE

300K WATCHED LIVE

The 2022 ceremony felt even more poignant and relevant. As the war and humanitarian crisis erupted in Ukraine, our memorial was an opportunity to remember all those lost in conflict, and to **build bridges** - even through times of intense fighting.

Each year, our Joint Memorial Day Ceremony brings Combatants for Peace's values into the public discourse: rejecting violence and embracing **another way**. Additionally, the popular success of the event models for Israeli, Palestinian, and international audiences that non-violent, binational cooperation and humanization are possible.

Thanks to extensive media coverage, we were able to spread our message of hope and call on ever-increasing numbers of people to join our movement
for peace & freedom for all.

Since the restrictions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic took the event from an in-person mass gathering in Tel Aviv to a virtual ceremony broadcast simultaneously from Israel and Palestine, our 2022 live global viewership grew to nearly 300,000, followed by over 1,000,000 streams.

The ceremony has become a focal point for the entire peace community, with over 60 peacebuilding organizations worldwide co-sponsoring the event. Our speakers and performers take courage and strength to a new level and inspire hope for thousands of people around the world.



THE 3RD PALESTINIAN-ISRAELI

Joint Nakba Ceremony

The Nakba is a collective tragedy. For many, deep wounds are still healing 75 years later. What we now call the "Catastrophe" is not simply limited to the events of 1948 that led to the destruction of 531 villages and the forced eviction of 70% of Palestinians. The Nakba extends to the current reality of demolitions, detentions, and occupation, which is daily life under an apartheid regime.

The joint Nakba Memorial expresses our belief that **reconciliation, freedom, and respect for both sides involve a sincere and emotional confrontation with the past.** The event seeks to transform the trauma of the Nakba into a discourse and a joint action designed to promote a new reality without occupation, discrimination, or persecution.

The Ceremony was held in the Bethlehem region in the presence of a mixed Palestinian, Israeli, and international audience, as well as streamed through a live online broadcast. The Ceremony included a variety of live testimonies, short videos, and original artistic interpretations of the Nakba and the fate of the Palestinian people.



TAKING ACTION IN AREA C

Area C makes up 60 percent of the occupied West Bank, and is entirely controlled by the Israeli military. Palestinian residents are subject to military law, with no civil or legal rights. Building permits submitted by Palestinians are routinely rejected by the military, and existing homes and dwellings are frequently destroyed to make way for surrounding settlements. The restrictive and discriminatory laws applied in Area C make it virtually impossible for Palestinian communities to thrive - or even survive.



Pictured (above) is CfP activist, Elie Avidor with Palestinian shepherd, Moueen, and his herd. Together they find shade from 100-degree heat in the Jordan Valley. Elie regularly walks with shepherds in Area C to help provide a deterrent presence to potential attacks.

Jordan Valley Activism

Our group of young Combatants for Peace activists has been growing quickly, and much of their work is focused in the Jordan Valley. CfP's Israeli activists accompany Palestinian farmers who are denied access to their land and spend solidarity weekends in places such as Masafer Yatta. Burhan, a Palestinian man living in Area C, recently shared, "There are times when CfP activists stay with us day and night to protect us from the settlers. I have so much respect for the activists and their presence in the Jordan Valley...they have helped renovate the water wells here, and they continue to support us however they can."



WATER CAMPAIGN

work on the ground

For some, climate change is a foreboding, but somewhat far-off threat. Indigenous communities across the globe are struggling to survive drought, desertification, and rapidly rising temperatures. It's not by chance that the most vulnerable and underserved communities are disproportionately impacted by environmental upheaval.

There is no better example of this than the systemically marginalized Palestinian communities across the Jordan Valley and beyond that are struggling to endure ever-dwindling natural resources and severe inequality in rights.

While more than 640,000 illegal Israeli settlers across the West Bank enjoy unfettered access to water, local Palestinian communities in Area C of the West Bank must make do with heavily restricted water supplies. As settlers fill their pools and water their gardens, Palestinian families are often prohibited from constructing water collection structures, restricted from accessing the water grid, and only allowed to transport water tanks one day each week.

In 2022, CfP helped communities in the Jordan Valley harvest rainwater, and activists empowered Palestinians to remain on their land by purchasing water pumps, constructing ponds and dams, and cleaning and repairing water cisterns. The CfP movement also organized joint protests and engaged in political advocacy to address these unjust water policies.





Olive Harvest

The annual olive harvest is a time for our movement to mobilize and unite our youth programs, regional groups, and activists from across Palestine and Israel. Not only is it a powerful act of solidarity, **it helps Palestinian families stay on their land**, which is crucial to achieving any future peace agreement.

The need for our support during harvests is critically important. In October 2022, there were **over 100 settler attacks in just 10 days**.

We organized olive pickings in communities all around Nablus and worked with families to gather their precious olives and **prevent further settler violence and crop destruction**.



If the olive trees knew the hands that had planted them, their oil would become tears.

-Mahmoud Darwish



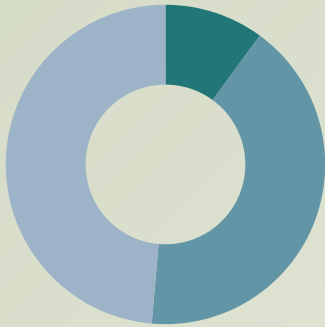


Co-creating a future of freedom



FY2022 FINANCIALS

Combatants for Peace REVENUE \$1,093,000

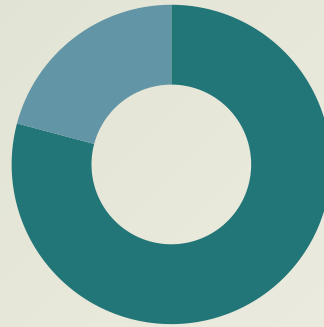


U.S. & OTHER
INTL. CONTRIBUTIONS \$532,000

EU CONTRIBUTIONS \$452,000

IL CONTRIBUTIONS \$110,000

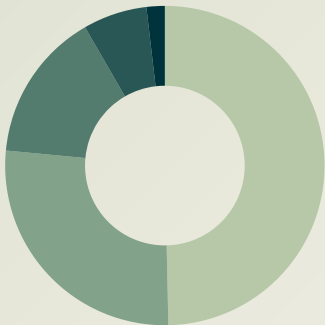
Combatants for Peace EXPENSES \$1,083,000



PROGRAMS \$857,000

ADMIN & OPERATIONS \$226,000

American Friends of CfP REVENUE \$864,000



INDIVIDUALS \$429,000

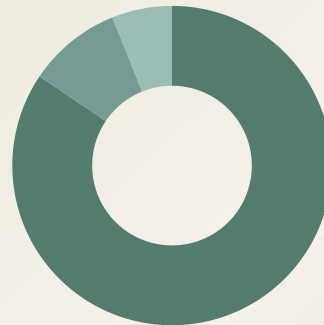
ONLINE FUNDRAISING \$232,000

GRANTS \$131,000

GOVERNMENT PPP \$56,000

INSTITUTIONS \$16,000

American Friends of CfP EXPENSES \$854,000



PROGRAMS \$721,000

FUNDRAISING \$81,000

MANAGEMENT \$52,000

STAFF & LEADERSHIP



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Thank you for your incredible *support.*



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